

## **HISTORIC CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMISSION – NEWPORT, RI**

Minutes: August 10, 2016

Newport Public Library, Rotary Room

Commissioners present-Andy Bjork, Lew Keen, Jean Quinn, Theresa Stokes, Mary Jo Valdes

Participants- Martha Ginty, Bert Lipincott, Alyssa Lozupone, Robert Russell, Kaity Ryan, Scott Wheeler

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm
2. Minutes from July 13, 2016 meeting were approved as presented
3. Updates/announcements - Alyssa Lozupone has applied to be appointed to the commission. The Colonial Jewish Burying Ground will be open for tour on Sunday, August 21st from 11am to 3pm. Scott shared that he'll have students from Roger Williams University for some work in the city and he may use them to repaint the fence along Farewell St.
4. Old/Unfinished Business

### Discussion regarding stone work needed in the Common Burying Ground

- Scott shared that the city had a three year contract in 2002 to repair monuments.
- He is drafting an RFP (Request for Proposal) for a three year stone conservator to be used by the city for work on stones in the burying ground.
- The RFP will be for an hourly rate for the conservator and any potential subcontractor plus materials.
- The role of the HCAC will be to work with the conservator, including guidance for stone selection for work
- Scott hopes to get the RFP out soon
- Concerns were expressed about stones in God's Little Acre, stones that are severely leaning and could easily be broken, and stones that could be easily taken from the site.

### Discussion regarding signage at the Common Burying Ground

- General signs at the entrances to the burying ground were discussed. It was expressed that the signs could include warnings regarding dangers (falling stones) and rules for use of the space. Some ideas were no stone rubbing, dogs on lease, control children, no climbing on stones, hours to visit
- It was suggested that rules should be friendly and simple.
- The question was raised if dogs are permitted in cemeteries. If the city does not permit this, the HCAC could advise the city to change that policy
- Theresa will compose wording for the signs and present it at our September meeting. Ideas for the wording can be email to her prior to that meeting.
- Scott stated that the city will be able to produce 'standard format' signs and install them.

The agenda for the September meeting will be signs. In addition to the entrance signs, interpretive signs and God's Little Acre sign will be discussed. Theresa will provide information about the God's Little Acre sign.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

The next meeting will be September 14 at 4pm at the Newport Library

Submitted by

Andy Bjork, Secretary